

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

November 3, 2004

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Presentation of colors conducted by representatives of the Manchester Police Department.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman DeVries.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

Members of the Aldermanic Board proceeded to lay the wreath in honor of the City's veterans.

Mayor Baines advised that Candace Glickman, Miss New Hampshire USA 2005 would perform the singing of the National Anthem.

Mayor Baines advised that the first purpose of the meeting would be observance of Veteran's Day and read the following Proclamation into the record.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, November 11 marks the annual celebration of Veteran's Day; and

Whereas, Manchester's veterans have always occupied a place of honor in the hearts and minds of their fellow citizens; and

Whereas, the sacrifices they have made for their countrymen in successive conflicts from the Revolution to the current battles in Iraq and Afghanistan have guaranteed the freedoms that make the United States unique among nations; and

Whereas, our obligation as citizens is to honor their service and to remain vigilant about the threats, both foreign and domestic, to the liberties we cherish; and

Whereas, tonight's ceremony is merely a token of the deep appreciation the citizens of Manchester feel for the veterans who live among us,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert A. Baines, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Mayor the City of Manchester in the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim November 11, 2004, Veteran's Day, to be

**A DAY OF APPRECIATION FOR AND CELEBRATION OF THE SACRIFICES
MADE BY MANCHESTER'S VETERANS**

We call upon all of Manchester's citizens to take part in the observances of Veteran's Day here in our great City.

The Clerk called the roll. There were fourteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Porter, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault and Forest

Mayor Baines stated before we begin the public forum I'd like to offer my personal congratulations to all the candidates who ran for office. Obviously, those who were successful, we offer our deepest congratulations and ask for God's blessings to the President of the United States through these very turbulent times. I'd also like to thank all of the people who ran for office and were not successful because they made personal sacrifices to put their names on the line to try to serve our community our state and our nation and we should be forever grateful that we live in such a great country where people will put themselves forward to serve the people of their communities, their states and their nation. A particular congratulations go out to all of the workers in the polls yesterday. That was a sight to behold. I have never, in all my years in the City of Manchester and I think everyone I saw at the polls some of the very oldest people never saw such a great participation in a democracy. I went down to Ward 9 my own ward at five o'clock yesterday afternoon and there were over 400 people in line to register to vote and I think the vote tally in Ward 9 was 103% if you look at the totals and it was just an incredible thing and that was happening all over our great state...record turnouts across the country but I think people would be hard pressed to match the turnout here in the City of Manchester and to see the dedication of these poll workers and I can speak specifically about Gloria Pilotte down in Ward 9 dealing with that situation yesterday and we were actually able to deputize additional people to assist with the registration, but I was struck by the patience and the determination of the voters which was unbelievable as people were waiting in line and I was urging them to be patient and they said don't worry we're not going anywhere, we're here to vote. It was just a wonderful thing. And, finally, City Clerk staff...we are so blessed in the City of Manchester with such a dedicated and professional City Clerk staff, absolutely, and when you see the different problem going on across the country and when you can go in on an election no one could have possibly anticipated what happened yesterday. It's sort of like the 100-year storm they talk about with seniors around the City, you just can't anticipate certain things to happen. But, to see the dedication and the professionalism in the way they responded to what...for example, in Ward 9 what could have been chaotic and Carol came down and helped organize things and Gloria Pilotte got things under control, but that was duplicated across the City, so we have a lot to be proud of here in the City of Manchester today and I'm very honored and privileged to work with people that are dedicated and professional as you people are.

Alderman Gatsas stated I certainly don't want to slight any of the workers that work at the polls, so let's give them a hand.

Mayor Baines advises that the second purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair; that each person wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Sr. Judi-Anne LaRosa, 323 Franklin Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Rally held 10/31/2004), stated:

I'm here with Carol Haebler the Manager of the building and seven representatives of the entire building. All 94 residents of our building were very concerned Sunday at what happened with the rally. Now, this is not a political issue, Mr. Kerry had every reason and right to come to Manchester, his supporters had every right to listen to him, but to use the Franklin Street entrance blocked off with a large tent with thousands of people on Franklin Street itself, in our parking lot...I will give you my story...I came home from church at 11:45 AM and the parking lot was full of people, it took me five minutes to get people to move out of the way so I could at least get into the parking lot. I got to my space which was filled with people and asked them to please move. They laughed at me, they refused to move, I sat on the horn, they finally moved except for one man. So, I rolled down the window again and I said would you please move and he thought it was a big joke. Well, I told him I'm going to pull into my parking space and I didn't think he believed I would do it...I started to slowing move into my parking space and he jumped out of the way. I proceeded from my car to try to get to the Merrimack Street door, it was unbelievable. It took move over five minutes. If like most residents I had had a cane, a walker, a scooter or a wheelchair I would have never made it through. Someone practically pulled the veil off my head and then finally a man felt sorry for me and said "hey, make way for sister" that's how I got to the door. I got inside the door which was locked and used my cardkey and these women came in running after me and they said we want to use the bathroom and they were not polite. I said I'm sorry but it's a private building the bathrooms are locked and you cannot use it. Well, they gave me the hardest time, I had to threaten to call the police. I went to the lobby and a lot of people were sitting there and said, Sister, they're gonna break the windows, they're gonna break the doors, they're trying to get in, they want us to let them in. I told them just ignore them. I went upstairs, looked out my window. In just the time from the parking lot to going up to my room on the 5th floor, I looked out and the parking lot was a sea of people. All I could see was the very tops of the cars. I couldn't see the sides, I couldn't see the cement or the hot top, all I could see were the very tops. There were people standing on cars, sitting on cars, there was a child sleeping on one of our cars. One of the women had pizza and beer thrown all over her car and it is a concern to many of the residents who kept calling me all afternoon because most of them can't afford insurance and

they were afraid that if there was any damage done they would have to get rid of their automobile because they could not fix it. So, I'm here to just ask you please consider the residents and please don't ever allow this to happen again because if there was ever a fire or an emergency there is no way the fire trucks could have gotten to our building and thank you for listening to me.

On motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and to receive and file any written communications.

This being a special meeting, no further business can be presented, on motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman Osborne, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk